

3. Wochenbericht (18. 11. 2019 – 22. 11. 2019)

We have arrived at our last two stations in the third and last week of our cruise. The weather has changed and is now much more befitting autumn. The skies are grey and cloudy and the temperatures have dropped. But we still have comparably little wind and waves and it stays dry.

The first of this week's stations was far up on the shelf, and - in contrast to our previous stations – very shallow, only 80 m deep. This is above the Black Sea chemocline and thus the whole water column at this station was oxic. This had positive implications for the benthic fauna. The retrieved cores were very different from those recovered from beneath the anoxic water column. There were mussel and snail shells covering the sediment surface, additionally, mixed with mud they stretched throughout the whole length of the recovered gravity core.

Our next - and last - station was back in the deeper part of the Black Sea basin and we again set out to collect our water and sediment samples. We managed to recover beautiful more than 5 meter long cores which made our sediment team very happy.

After the last in situ pump deployments we steamed overnight to the Varna harbor. Here, we were awaited by the pilot and were brought to our harbor place. The scientists were busy with packing and cleaning, and with the help of the crew all boxes and equipment were eventually stored in the 4°C container and on deck.

On Friday, our cargo was loaded on a truck that will bring the equipment safely back to Bremen. We then prepared our frozen samples for shipment and after that our work was done and we disembarked the ship.

Traditionally, our departure would make space for the next scientific crew. Only in this case we have the honor of being the last scientific cruise of the *RV Poseidon*. After unloading in Varna the *Poseidon* will sail through the Mediterranean Sea back to its home harbor of Kiel, Germany.

At this point I would like to thank the scientists onboard for their determination and enthusiasm which were instrumental to the success of our cruise. I would also like to



Fig. 1. A sediment core with shells on the sediment surface recovered from our shallow station.

cordially thank Captain Helge Volland and his entire crew for their professionalism and helpfulness, and for creating such fantastic working conditions on the *Poseidon*. It has been a pleasure and an absolute privilege to sail on the last scientific cruise of the *RV Poseidon*.

With best wishes from the Varna harbor,

Jana Milucka and the Participants of POS539